



February 22, 2007

To The Connecticut General Assembly:

I am writing on behalf of **LifeChoice Donor Services**, the not for profit, federally-designated organ procurement organization for Hartford, New London, Litchfield, Middlesex, Tolland and Windham counties which provides organ and tissue donation services to 18 Connecticut hospitals, **in support of Proposed Bill No. 190, LCO No. 955, "An Act Concerning An Income Tax Deduction for Expenses Associated With Organ Donation"**.

This proposed bill is consistent with the mission of LifeChoice Donor Services to "foster community and professional support of organ and tissue donation, providing compassionate care for families and saving and improving lives".

Passage of this bill into law will have a broad impact on the thousands who currently wait for an organ transplant. As you may know, living organ donation and transplantation is a critical alternative to the very long waiting list for an organ transplant from a deceased donor. As such, living donation and transplantation, as an alternative to the current waiting list, has a direct positive affect on the number of candidates on the waiting list and the number of deaths on waiting list. However, living donation and transplantation is not without its' limitations – particularly the financial costs to the living donor in the form of travel, lodging and lost wages. If the burden of cost were offset by passage of this bill, we believe more Connecticut residents would step forward to help those in need by becoming living donors.

Thank you for considering this very important bill in support of organ donation and please accept LifeChoice's endorsement for Proposed Bill No. 190, LCO No. 955.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Savaria

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